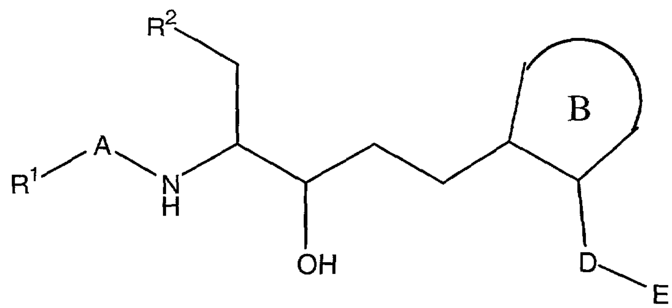
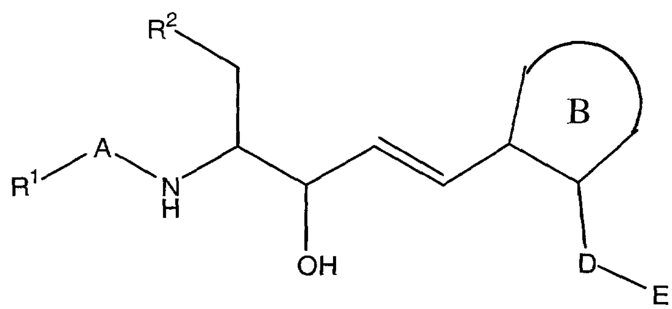
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula



or

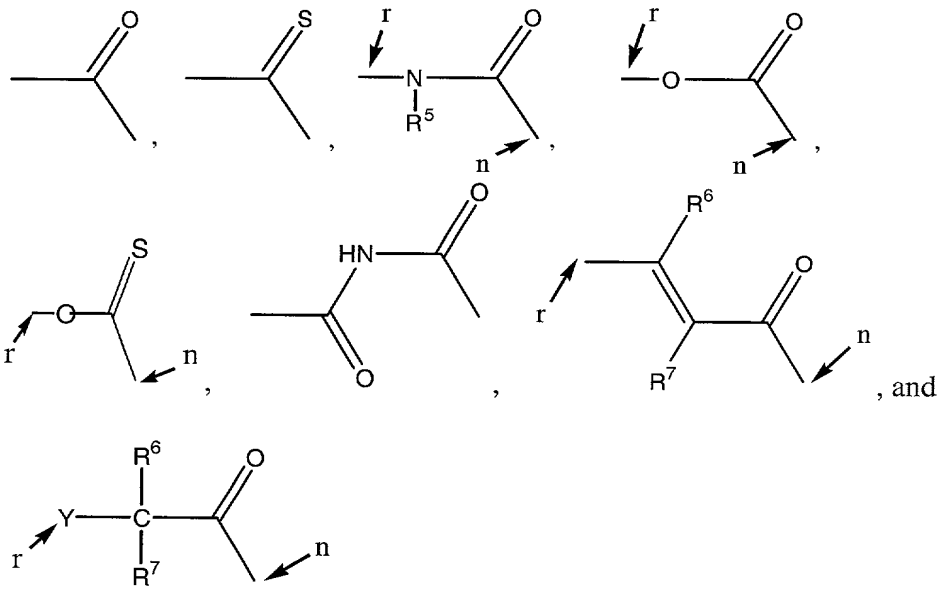


wherein

R^1 is chosen from the group consisting of C_1-C_{20} alkyl, substituted C_1-C_{20} alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, substituted alkylaryl, C_3-C_{10} oxaalkyl, substituted aryl, heterocyclyl, and substituted heterocyclyl;

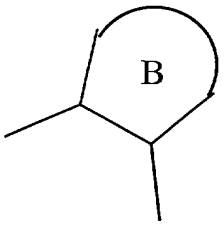
R^2 is chosen from the group consisting of C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbon, substituted aryl and heterocyclyl;

A is chosen from the group consisting of $-SO_2-$, $-NHSO_2-$, $-SO_2NHC(O)-$



, and

wherein r→ designates the point of attachment to R^1 and n→ designates the point of attachment to N;



is monocyclic, bicyclic or tricyclic aryl or heteroaryl containing

from 0 to 3 substituents chosen from lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, hydroxy, mercapto, cyano, carboxy, lower alkoxycarbonyl, (lower alkoxycarbonyl)lower alkoxy, lower alkylaminocarbonyl, amino, lower alkylamino, di(lower alkyl)amino, nitro, halo and haloalkyl;

R^5 is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl and substituted aryl;

R^6 and R^7 are chosen independently from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen and lower alkyl;

D is -C(O)- or -NHC(O)-;

E is chosen from the group consisting of C_5-C_8 alkyl, heterocyclyl, substituted heterocyclyl and $NR^{10}R^{11}$;

R^{10} is hydrogen or lower alkyl;

R^{11} is chosen from C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbon, substituted aryl and substituted alkyl; and

Y is -O-, -S-, -NH- or a direct bond,

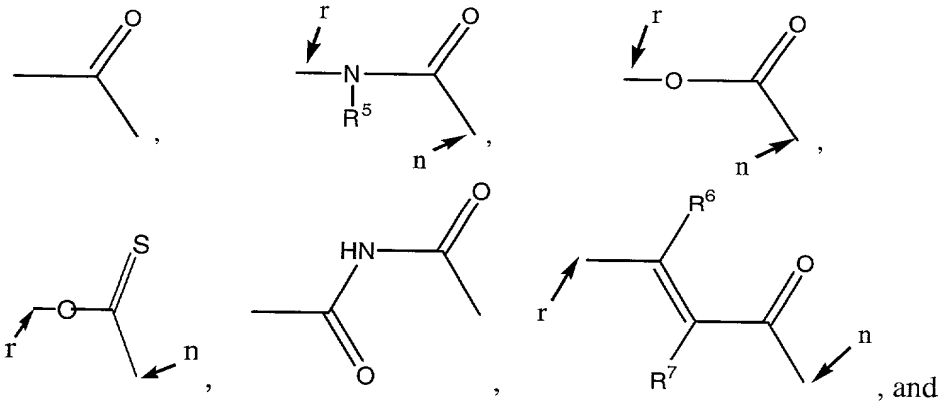
or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein

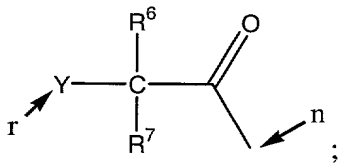
R^1 is chosen from the group consisting of C_1-C_{20} alkyl, substituted C_1-C_{20} alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, C_3-C_{10} oxaalkyl, substituted aryl, heterocyclyl, and substituted heterocyclyl;

R^2 is C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbon;

A is chosen from the group consisting of -SO_2- ,



, and



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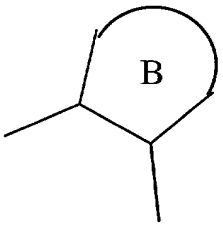


is monocyclic or bicyclic aryl or containing from 0 to 3 substituents chosen from lower alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, (lower alkoxycarbonyl)lower alkoxy, nitro and halo;

R^5 is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl and substituted aryl;

R^6 and R^7 are chosen independently from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen and lower alkyl;

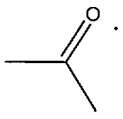
D is -C(O)- or -NHC(O)-;

E is chosen from the group consisting of C_5-C_8 alkyl, heterocyclyl, substituted heterocyclyl and $NR^{10}R^{11}$;

R^{10} is hydrogen;

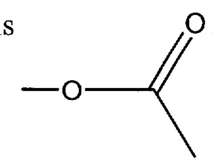
R^{11} is chosen from C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbon and substituted alkyl; and

Y is -O-, -S-, -NH- or a direct bond.

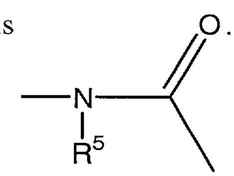
3. A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is  .

4. A compound according to claim 3 wherein R^1 is chosen from the group consisting of phenyl; phenyl substituted with halo, methoxy, hydroxymethyl, allyl, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, anilino, benzoyl, dimethylamino, amino, nitro, cyano, and C_1-C_6 alkyl; hydroxy C_1-C_6 alkyl; naphthyl and nitrogenous heterocyclyl, and substituted nitrogenous heterocyclyl.

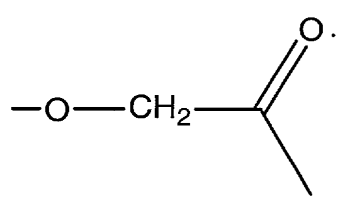
5. A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is



6. A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is



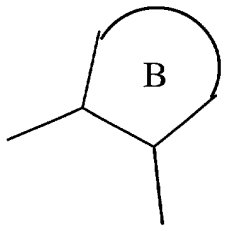
7. A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is



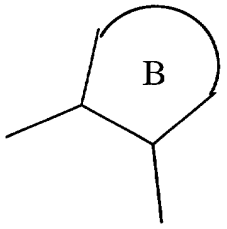
8. A compound according to claim 7 wherein R^1 is chosen from the group consisting of C_1-C_8 alkyl; phenyl; phenyl substituted with halo, methoxy, hydroxymethyl, allyl, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, anilino, benzoyl, dimethylamino, amino, nitro, cyano, and C_1-C_6 alkyl; hydroxy C_1-C_6 alkyl; naphthyl; nitrogenous heterocyclyl; and substituted nitrogenous heterocyclyl.

9. A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is $-SO_2-$.

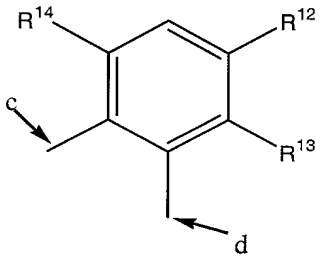
10. A compound according to claim 9 wherein R^1 is chosen from the group consisting of C_1-C_8 alkyl; phenyl; substituted phenyl; naphthyl; heteroaryl; and substituted heteroaryl.

11. A compound according to claim 1 wherein 

is phenyl, substituted phenyl or naphthyl.

12. A compound according to claim 11 wherein 

is naphthyl or



wherein

R^{12} is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, nitro and [(lower alkoxy)carbonyl]loweralkoxy;

R^{13} is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy and lower alkoxy;

R^{14} is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy and lower alkoxy;

and wherein c→ and d→ designate the points of attachment of the carbon chain and D respectively.

13. A compound according to claim 1 wherein D is -C(O)- .

14. A compound according to claim 13 wherein:

E is chosen from the group consisting of :

(i) nitrogenous heterocyclyl connected to D via N;

(ii) substituted nitrogenous heterocyclyl connected to D via N; and

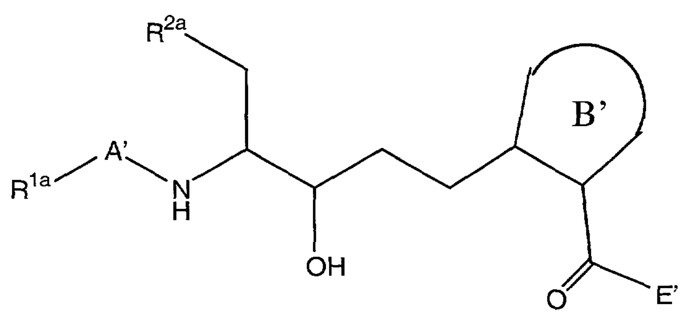
(iii) NHR^{11}; and

R^{11} is chosen from C_4-C_{10} hydrocarbon and 2-hydroxy-1-phenylethyl.

15. A compound according to claim 1 wherein D is -NHC(O)- and E is C_4-C_{10} hydrocarbon.

16. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^2 is phenyl, ethyl, propyl or butyl.

17. A compound of formula

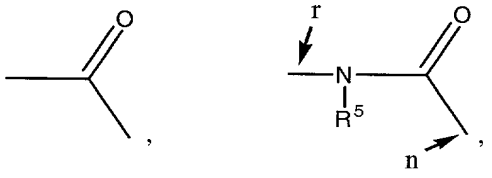


wherein:

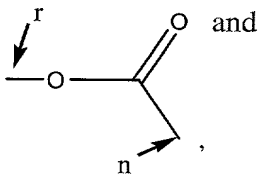
R^{1a} is chosen from the group consisting of C_1-C_{20} alkyl, substituted C_1-C_{20} alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, C_3-C_{10} oxaalkyl, substituted aryl, heterocyclyl, and substituted heterocyclyl;

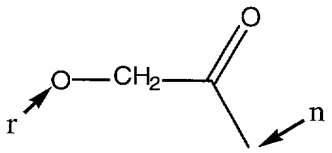
R^{2a} is chosen from the group consisting of phenyl, ethyl, propyl and butyl;

A' is chosen from the group consisting of $-SO_2-$,

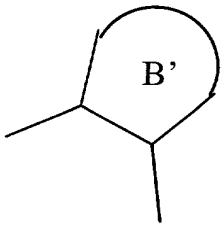


and





wherein r→ designates the point of attachment to R^1 and n→ designates the point of attachment to N;



is monocyclic or bicyclic aryl or containing from 0 to 3 substituents chosen from lower alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, (lower alkoxycarbonyl)lower alkoxy, nitro and halo;

E' is chosen from the group consisting of :

(i) nitrogenous heterocyclyl connected to D via N;

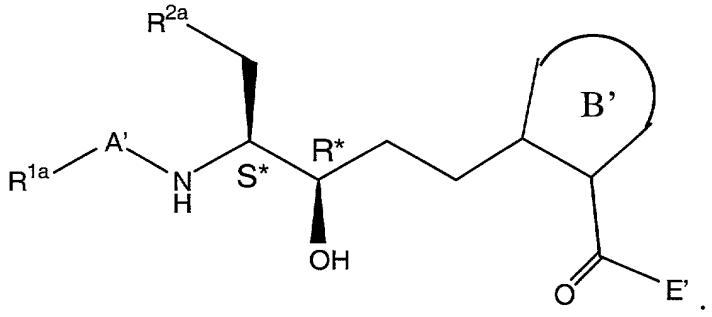
(ii) substituted nitrogenous heterocyclyl connected to D via N; and

(iii) NHR^{11}; and

R^{11} is chosen from C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbon and substituted alkyl,

or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. A compound according to claim 17 wherein the carbon marked S* is of the S configuration and the carbon marked R* is of the R configuration:



19. A method of treating or preventing a protease-precipitated disease which comprises administering to a mammal suffering from said disease or at risk to said disease a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

20. A method according to claim 19 wherein said disease is HIV, AIDS or a related condition.

21. A method according to claim 19 wherein said disease is malaria.

22. A method according to claim 19 wherein said disease is chosen from connective tissue disease, muscular dystrophy, breast cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

23. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

24. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 23 comprising at least one additional antiviral agent.